

Message

From: Nitsch, Chad [Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov]
Sent: 3/25/2021 8:56:14 PM
To: Drinkard, Andrea [Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov]; Katims, Casey [Katims.Casey@epa.gov]; Bowles, Jack [Bowles.Jack@epa.gov]
CC: Ozmen, Shamus [Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov]; Keigwin, Richard [Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov]; Dennis, Allison [Dennis.Allison@epa.gov]; Kaiser, Sven-Erik [Kaiser.Sven-Erik@epa.gov]; Messina, Edward [Messina.Edward@epa.gov]; Grantham, Nancy [Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Letter: Another widely used Pesticide contains PFAS

Thanks Andrea. Please continue to keep me in the loop and let me know how the region can assist.

Chad Nitsch
Director, Office of Public Affairs
US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 3 (Mid-Atlantic: WV, VA, PA, MD, DE, DC, and 7 federally recognized tribes)
215-814-5434

From: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 4:45 PM
To: Katims, Casey <Katims.Casey@epa.gov>; Bowles, Jack <Bowles.Jack@epa.gov>
Cc: Ozmen, Shamus <Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov>; Keigwin, Richard <Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Kaiser, Sven-Erik <Kaiser.Sven-Erik@epa.gov>; Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>; Nitsch, Chad <Nitsch.Chad@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Letter: Another widely used Pesticide contains PFAS

I defer to OCSPP as to whether a quick touch to Ben from you would make sense or whether they've already done it. I know PEER said that they were going to reach out to MDE as well. We worked very closely with Massachusetts on their issue, so it seems we should do the same here. I'm also realizing that I should have looped the region. Adding Chad here.

Also, here's the story that just ran in the Baltimore Sun. They had the exclusive.

<https://www.baltimoresun.com/news/environment/bs-md-pfas-pesticide-maryland-mosquito-control-20210325-db76zvka5rc5ripawakzjpefly-story.html>

From: Katims, Casey <Katims.Casey@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 4:12 PM
To: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Bowles, Jack <Bowles.Jack@epa.gov>
Cc: Ozmen, Shamus <Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov>; Keigwin, Richard <Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Kaiser, Sven-Erik <Kaiser.Sven-Erik@epa.gov>; Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Letter: Another widely used Pesticide contains PFAS

Thank you Andrea, appreciate the awareness on this. I am in regular contact with Ben Grumbles at MDE and wonder whether I should reach out to touch base and open a line of communication. Happy to hang tight if it's better to wait.

Let us know how we can help coordinate a conversation with our state partners. We stand ready to assist.

Casey

From: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 3:30 PM
To: Bowles, Jack <Bowles.Jack@epa.gov>; Katims, Casey <Katims.Casey@epa.gov>
Cc: Ozmen, Shamus <Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov>; Keigwin, Richard <Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Kaiser, Sven-Erik <Kaiser.Sven-Erik@epa.gov>; Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Letter: Another widely used Pesticide contains PFAS

Here's the statement we've used with reporters today, in case it's helpful.

EPA is committed to taking action to better understand and ultimately reduce the potential risks caused by these chemicals, including how to address PFAS contamination. EPA's actions to address these chemicals will be underpinned by science and will support the agency's efforts to develop effective regulation and provide improved public health protections for all Americans. EPA has received the letter and data from PEER on Permethrin 30-30 and will review it as part of the agency's ongoing efforts to investigate PFAS contamination in pesticide products.

EPA is actively working with the Food and Drug Administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and industry and trade organizations to raise awareness of this emerging issue and discuss expectations of product stewardship. For example, EPA is coordinating with the Ag Container Recycling Council, the American Chemistry Council, Crop Life America, the Household & Commercial Products Association, and the National Pest Management Association.

EPA will also continue to work closely with the entities involved and their supply and distribution chains, mosquito control districts, the pesticide and packaging industry, federal partners, states, and tribes that may be affected to provide information and guidance on next steps. The agency is encouraging the pesticide industry to explore alternative packaging options, like steel drums or non-fluorinated HDPE. EPA understands the need to provide guidance to states, tribes, and other users as they prepare to purchase mosquito control products for 2021 and will provide more information as it continues its investigation.

EPA can confirm that currently all registered pesticides and those pending registration do not have chemical structures – or physical or chemical properties – comparable to PFAS such as PFOS, PFOA, GenX and PFBS. EPA has information on the components of this formulation and can confirm that no ingredients in the approved formulation are PFAS. The agency is also testing different brands of fluorinated containers to determine whether they contain and/or leach PFAS, and if so, learn the conditions affecting leaching. EPA will present these findings as expeditiously as possible.

From: Bowles, Jack <Bowles.Jack@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 3:08 PM
To: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>; Katims, Casey <Katims.Casey@epa.gov>
Cc: Ozmen, Shamus <Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov>; Keigwin, Richard <Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Kaiser, Sven-Erik <Kaiser.Sven-Erik@epa.gov>; Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Letter: Another widely used Pesticide contains PFAS

Thank you Andrea. Will stay tuned.

Take care,
Jack

From: Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 2:59 PM
To: Katims, Casey <Katims.Casey@epa.gov>; Bowles, Jack <Bowles.Jack@epa.gov>
Cc: Ozmen, Shamus <Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov>; Keigwin, Richard <Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov>; Dennis, Allison

<Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Kaiser, Sven-Erik <Kaiser.Sven-Erik@epa.gov>; Messina, Edward
<Messina.Edward@epa.gov>; Grantham, Nancy <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: Letter: Another widely used Pesticide contains PFAS

Hi Casey and Jack,

Just wanted to make you aware of a new pesticide product that has been tested by PEER and appears to be contaminated with PFAS. Since the product has been applied in Maryland, I wanted to make sure you guys were in the loop. I also wanted to flag that we may need to jump on the phone/teams with our state partners someone soon once we wrap our heads around this information and have something share. I don't think we're ready for that yet, but raising for awareness now.

Let me know if you want to jump on the phone to chat. I'm including Rick and Ed as well.

Thanks!

From: Ozmen, Shamus <Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 1:12 PM

To: Dennis, Allison <Dennis.Allison@epa.gov>; Drinkard, Andrea <Drinkard.Andrea@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: Letter: Another widely used Pesticide contains PFAS

Related to the Baltimore Sun inquiry.

From: Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 11:42 AM

To: Dinkins, Darlene <Dinkins.Darlene@epa.gov>

Cc: Goodis, Michael <Goodis.Michael@epa.gov>; Ozmen, Shamus <Ozmen.Shamus@epa.gov>; Nesci, Kimberly
<Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: Letter: Another widely used Pesticide contains PFAS

For CMS

Ed Messina, Esq.

Acting Office Director

Office of Pesticide Programs

Office of Chemical Safety & Pollution Prevention

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Washington, D.C.

p: (703) 347-0209

From: Aubee, Catherine <Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2021 11:32 AM

To: Messina, Edward <Messina.Edward@epa.gov>; Goodis, Michael <Goodis.Michael@epa.gov>; Echeverria, Marietta
<Echeverria.Marietta@epa.gov>; Leifer, Kerry <Leifer.Kerry@epa.gov>

Cc: Nesci, Kimberly <Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Letter: Another widely used Pesticide contains PFAS

For awareness.

Best,
Catherine

Associate Director
OPP Registration Division
US Environmental Protection Agency

Begin forwarded message:

From: Timothy Whitehouse <twhitehouse@peer.org>
Date: March 25, 2021 at 11:27:18 AM EDT
To: "Regan, Michael" <Regan.Michael@epa.gov>
Cc: "Nesci, Kimberly" <Nesci.Kimberly@epa.gov>, "Aubee, Catherine" <Aubee.Catherine@epa.gov>, Ruth Berlin <mpnberlin@gmail.com>, Kyla Bennett <KBennett@peer.org>
Subject: **Letter: Another widely used Pesticide contains PFAS**

Dear Administrator Regan:

Please find the attached letter from PEER and the Maryland Pesticide Education Network notifying you that we recently tested a pesticide widely used in Maryland for PFAS. The result showed the pesticide, Permanone 30-30, contains high levels of PFAS.

We are also in the process of notifying the Maryland Department of Agriculture and Maryland Department of the Environment. See our attached letters.

We would be happy to discuss this matter further with you. We have been working with Kimberly Nesci and Catherine Aube of your staff on the matter of PFAS in pesticides and have appreciated their attention to our concerns.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your continued work on these issues.

Tim Whitehouse, JD, MA
Executive Director
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
202-265-7337 ext 109
Twitter: @TimWhitehouseUS